

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111233

12

ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111233

CINCPAC FOR POLAD ALSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN COMMENTARY ON U.S. REASSURANCES  
TO ROK.

1. FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF RECENT NORTH KOREAN MEDIA REAC-  
TION TO U.S. REAFFIRMATION OF SECURITY COMMITMENT TO ROK  
WAS PREPARED BY FBIS ANALYSIS GROUP.

2. RECENT NORTH KOREAN MEDIA COMMENT HAS SUGGESTED THAT  
U.S. RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA  
HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED, RATHER THAN WEAKENED, BY RECENT  
DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA. A NODONG SINMUN COMMENTARY  
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PAGE 02 STATE 111233

ON 2 MAY, FOR EXAMPLE, COMPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THE

UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DEFEATED IN INDOCHINA, IT IS NOT "DRAWING A PROPER LESSON" AND INSTEAD IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO "BACK UP AT ANY COST" THE PAK CHONG-HUI GOVERNMENT. DPRK MEDIA HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO HIGHLIGHT A STANDARD PYONGYANG THEME--THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO HOLD ON TO SOUTH KOREA FOREVER AS A BASE FOR "AGGRESSION" IN ASIA.

3. A 13 APRIL NODONG SINMUN COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENT FORD'S 10 APRIL FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH FOCUSED ON THE IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PLEDGING TO REINFORCE ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ROK AND TIGHTEN ITS ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN.

COMMENTING ON DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S 1 MAY PRESS CONFERENCE, A 3 MAY NODONG SINMUN COMMENTARY EMPHASIZED U.S. RESOLVE TO HONOR ITS MILITARY COMMITMENTS AND REINFORCE ITS POSITION IN SOUTH KOREA AS PART OF A POST-VIETNAM STRATEGY.

4. ONLY TWO MONITORED DPRK COMMENTARIES IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE QUESTIONED EITHER THE WILLINGNESS OR CAPABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS TO ITS ALLIES, AND NEITHER SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME WAS NOT PROPITIOUS TO CHALLENGE DIRECTLY THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH. A 25 APRIL PYONGYANG RADIO COMMENTARY ON THE LESSONS OF INDOCHINA, BROAOCAST WHILE KIM IL-SONG WAS IN PEKING, CLAIMED THAT DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY HAD INTENSIFIED, AND THE U.S. ECONOMIC CRISIS HAD GROWN TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS IN NO POSITION TO HELP ITS "PUPPETS," AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO SAVE THE REGIME IN SEOUL. A 6 MAY NODONG SINMUN COMMENTARY DIRECTLY QUESTIONED THE EFFICACY OF U.S. COMMITMENTS WHEN IT CLAIMED THAT THE FATE OF THE LON NOL AND THIEU GOVERNMENTS, "BELIEVING IN 'THE COMMITMENTS' AND 'ASSISTANCE' OF U.S. IMPERIALIST MASTERS," SHOW THAT "THE DAY HAS GONE WHEN THE SOUTH KOREAN PUPPETS COULD BENEFIT FROM THE HELP OF THE U.S. IMPERIALIST MASTERS." KISSINGER

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